

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Flange (1) for pipes for the transport of petrochemical fluids, gases and liquefied gases, characterised in that it has comprising a bearing surface (11) for engagement by a clamping jaw (3) of a joining pipe, which has a peripheral portion (2) bevelled in the direction of support of the jaw (3) said bearing surface being curvedly beveled towards the joining pipe.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Flange according to claim 1, characterised in that the inequality wherein $(R_v * a) + (R_o * b) > (F_{ao} * b) - (F_{av} * a)$ is always verified, where:

R_v = vertical component of the applied force R;

a = arm of the vertical components of the forces;

R_o = horizontal component of the applied force R;

b = arm of the horizontal components of the forces;

F_{ao} = horizontal component of the friction force F_a ;

F_{av} = vertical component of the friction force F_a .